

**FREE**

# Sheffield TIMES

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page 23

Community News for Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA SECOND GENERATION Vol. XI, Issue V May/June 2012

## SHEFFIELD FARMERS' MARKET OPENS MAY 25

The Sheffield Farmers' Market will open its 12<sup>th</sup> season on Fri., May 25, Memorial Day weekend. The Market meets in the parking lot next to Old Parish Church on the Sheffield Green. Hours will be 2:30 to 6:30pm every Friday through Labor Day. Shoppers can find plenty of free parking at the nearby Town Hall parking lot.

The Market is emblematic of Sheffield's "farm friendly community." Under new management this year, it's looking forward to bringing more fresh, locally grown produce and meats—as well as an assortment of breads, baked goods, condiments, cheeses, flowers and artisan crafts—to the community.

Since its inception in 2001, the Farmers' Market has been a way for consumers and growers to connect. It's an enjoyable meeting place to get to know

### TOWN MEETING OKS MOST OF WARRANT

Voters at Sheffield's annual Town Meeting on May 7 approved most of the articles that appeared on the warrant. One article, placed on the warrant by petition, was "passed over."

Included among the articles is a revision of the town's sign bylaws.

The Town Election, will be held from 7am to 7pm on Mon., May 14 at the Senior Center. Several positions are being voted on, with one, for Library Trustee, contested.



*As in past years, the 2012 Sheffield Farmers' Market will meet by Old Parish Church.*

your local farmers and to learn about locally raised food.

Additionally, when you shop there you are supporting local jobs by spending food dollars with local businesses. You are supporting a clean environment by purchasing food that has a small ecological footprint. You are preserving open space on productive land and helping ensure the future of our farms and farmers.

Returning vendors include Berkshire Mountain Bakery (artisanal bread); Community Cooperative Farm (vegetables, eggs); Moon in the Pond Farm (meat, vegetables, eggs); Howden Farm (corn); Bill's Busy Bees (honey); Chubby Bunny Farm (vegetables); and more.

The Farmers' Market welcomes new vendors. If you are interested, contact

Amelia Wolfe, the market manager, at: [marketmanager@thesheffieldfarmersmarket.com](mailto:marketmanager@thesheffieldfarmersmarket.com). The market also invites nonprofits and civic groups to share their message with a free table set up at the market.

### SUPPORT THE MISSION

Help the Sheffield Farmers' Market bring healthy food to our community. The Market charges vendors a participation fee, but advertising, insurance and administrative expenses exceed the amount we can ask. Tax-deductible contributions can be made through the Sheffield Association (note "Farmers' Market" on the memo line), P.O. Box 1339, Sheffield, MA 01257.

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*Swan nest spotted on Harmon Marsh Pond. The cygnets are to the right of the adult swan. Overlooking the scene: a redwing blackbird (circled).*

## Sheffield TIMES

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Dobson Family and Jim Russell, 8, 9. Andrea Scott,  
13. Deb Beham, 23. Olympia Casivant, 26*

## THANK YOU, SUPPORTERS!

*Your generous response helps us keep Sheffield informed!*

Laura and Greg Batch

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Salisbury Bank

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Richard Zimmerman & Elissa Williams

*If we missed thanking you here, we'll catch you in the next issue.  
If you haven't contributed lately, do it now! See page 27.*

## THREE MORE WAYS TO SUPPORT THE SHEFFIELD TIMES YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

☛ SUBMIT ARTICLES, NEWS ITEMS, PHOTOS OR ILLUSTRATIONS.

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**July/August  
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## MEMORIAL DAY PARADES MAY 28

Ashley Falls starts the day off with its Memorial Day Parade at 8am, Mon., May 28, at the blinking light on Rt. 7A. The parade proceeds to the cemetery on Clayton Rd. and is held rain or shine. The graveside ceremony will be held in the Trinity Methodist Church in the event of rain. Following services there, donuts and coffee will be served at the Trinity Methodist Church Social Hall.

The Sheffield parade will step off at 11am from the Village Green and proceed north on Rt. 7 to Barnard Park. After the parade, Christ Church Episcopal and Trinity Lutheran Church invites all to free hotdogs, chili and drinks on the lawn in front of the parish hall.



*The Sheffield Fire Dept. marches in last year's parade.*

## SHEFFIELD: THE BERKSHIRE TOWN WITH THE BIG ASPHALT PLANT?

On April 22, some 60 residents of Sheffield and Canaan, CT, turned out to hear about the continuing efforts of Century Acquisitions to add a hot mix asphalt plant to its sand, gravel and concrete operations in Sheffield on the Connecticut state line. The meeting was sponsored by the No Asphalt Defense Fund (NADF).

The company is expected to re-apply for an asphalt permit from the Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) sometime this summer. A previous application in October 2008 was denied last August.

Catherine Miller, a Sheffield resident and one of the founders of NADF, explained that Century also has to apply to the Sheffield Zoning Board of Appeals for a special permit to produce asphalt, since the use does not currently conform to applicable Sheffield bylaws. She invited the crowd to join NADF in convincing ZBA members that asphalt

production is a health hazard that doesn't belong in the town.

If Century is given an asphalt permit by the DEP and the Sheffield ZBA acquiesces, the company will be permitted to produce over 500,000 tons of asphalt per year, although the company has indicated it would take time to reach this level. (The company is still waiting to receive a DEP air permit for its existing operations of sand and gravel and batch concrete production; a hearing on that permit is scheduled for July.)

Miller stressed that NADF is not anti-business but pro-clean business. Century's track record in this regard, she said, has not been encouraging since it took over the business in 2001 and increased the production of sand, gravel and batch concrete at the site. Tests show that Century still remains out of compliance with Massachusetts noise regulations, and the company is being required by the state to restudy the noise problem.

Kim Casey, who lives nearby in Canaan, described how sand and noise from the plant have plagued her neighborhood. She showed photos of the dust storms that occur whenever the wind blows, despite berms and trees planted to control the problem.

Sheffield resident Elaine Panitz, an occupational and environmental medicine

physician and another founder of NADF, described the negative impacts that the addition of a hot mix asphalt plant would bring to Sheffield, Ashley Falls, Canaan and Norfolk. She spoke about how manufacturing asphalt produces toxins that will rain down on the community from the asphalt stack.

Panitz described how the potential level of asphalt production would, over the next 10 years, release millions of pounds of greenhouse gases; hundreds of thousands of pounds of pollutants hazardous enough to be monitored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Administration; thousands of pounds of volatile organics that include "asphalt smell," hundreds of pounds of benzene and formaldehyde, both known human carcinogens; and pounds of highly toxic heavy metals, including the carcinogens arsenic and cadmium. Most damaging, she noted, would be the release of more than 30,000 pounds of highly toxic fine particle pollution, which the EPA believes is the single greatest environmental health threat for U.S. citizens.

In addition to their concerns about the plant itself, residents attending the meeting expressed worries about increased truck traffic, which itself would release more fine particle pollution and damage local infrastructure. Others worried about the economic impact of the plant, that its effect on tourism and property values would more than outweigh any new jobs created (three are expected, according to Century's DEP application).

One participant summed it up by saying, does Sheffield want to be known as the Berkshire town with the big asphalt plant?



*The April NADF meeting filled Dewey Hall.*



### JIM SHIMINSKI'S CONTRIBUTION TO GOLF HISTORY

Dr. Jim Shiminski is now retired after 57 years in public education, including 17 years as Mt. Everett High School's industrial arts teacher, but he's long had a passion for golf. In February, he received word from the Professional Golf Association that a unique set of golf clubs that he had a hand in designing was being included in the PGA Museum in Port St. Lucie, FL. The set of "shankless" irons went on display in April.

In 1941, he was introduced to the game as a caddy at the Worcester Country Club, in Worcester, MA. Soon after, John Bernardi became the head pro there, and he picked Jim out of the caddy ranks to be his "shop boy." When he realized Jim was interested in using tools, Bernardi began teaching him his great club making skills.

Bernardi treated Jim like a second son, a relationship that lasted until his death at age 84. Bernardi insisted that Jim graduate from college before he would recommend him to a post as a golf professional. Jim went off to Fitchburg State College, which led to a series of friendships instrumental in the shankless irons heading to the museum: Bernardi asked Jim to pick a caddy to replace himself in the pro shop. Jim picked Ray Lajoie, who later became the pro at Worcester Country Club. Lajoie later trained Jim Remy, who became president of the PGA.

Jim kept working at the Worcester Country Club during the summers. After Jim's junior year, Bernardi



*The shankless irons, now in the PGA Museum in Florida, for which Jim Shiminski made the prototype in the 1950s. The photo is of John Bernardi, who thought up the design.*

recommended him to the Hilcrest Country Club in Leicester, MA, where Jim became the youngest golf professional in New England during his last year of college.

After graduation, Jim entered the army. After basic training he was selected to help re-build the officers' golf course at Fort Campbell, KY. In that role, he hosted the Kentucky Open Golf Championship and was decorated by the Secretary of the Army for meritorious service.

After the Army, Jim chose a teaching career over golf. One day in the 1950s, Bernardi called him to talk about a revolutionary golf club design he was working on. The design would eliminate the shank, the part next to the blade that

connects the blade to the shaft. Hitting the ball near the shank results in wild mis-hits: "shanking the ball."

Bernardi gave Jim a set of Pedersen irons and described how he wanted Jim to cut the iron at the neck and weld it to the back of the blade. Jim went back to his shop in Sheffield and produced the prototype for a patent.

Only a very few sets were ever manufactured. Although the design did eliminate the shank, it was not an attractive golf club and it never caught on. When Bernardi retired, he gave the only two sets remaining to Jim, who used them for several years before putting them in the back of a closet.

Now, one of those sets is being preserved as part of golf history.

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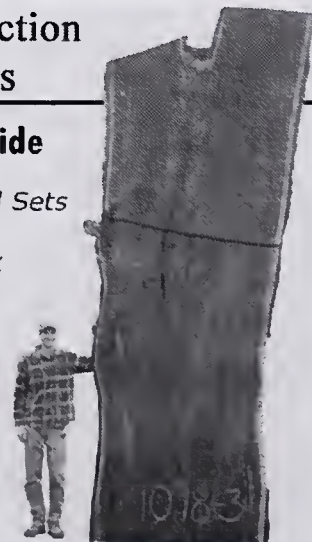
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## DEWEY HALL EVENTS

Historic Dewey Hall on the Sheffield Green hosts an array of events through the year and is available for rental.

On the fourth Saturday of most months, the Hall hosts the Mountain Laurel Contra Dance. The last two dances of the season will be held May 26 and June 23 at 8:30pm.

On the first Saturday of most months, the Hall holds a Folk Music Series. See the box below. On June 30, a special anniversary concert will be held at 7:30pm.

The Sheffield Historical Society is holding its June program on Fri., June 8. See page 25 for more. A Summer Solstice Celebration will be held on Fri., June 22, at 6pm.

In July and August, two Housatonic Valley Art League shows take place in the hall.

For more information, contact Jean Emberlin at 229-7989 or email her at deweymemorialhall@gmail.com.

### FOLK MUSIC SERIES

On June 2, Michael Troy, an award-winning singer-songwriter, uses his deep, rich voice and his moving lyrics to tell stories of his life and dreams; [www.folkmichaeltroy.com](http://www.folkmichaeltroy.com).

The Folk Music Series will be on summer hiatus until Sept. 8, when the series returns with the Lucky Five Jazz Band, an ensemble of Hudson Valley- and Berkshires-based musicians.

Shows start at 7:30pm. Light refreshments are available. Suggested donation at the door is \$10 for members, \$15 for nonmembers. [www.DeweyHall.com](http://www.DeweyHall.com).

## BERKSHIRE CHORAL FESTIVAL

The Berkshire Choral Festival's 31<sup>st</sup> season opens in Sheffield on Sat., July 14, at 7:30pm with a performance of Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*. The season continues each Saturday night with performances of Verdi's *Requiem* in a multi-media production called *The Defiant Requiem*, an evening of opera acts, and works by Schubert (*Mass in A Flat*) and Haydn (*Lord Nelson Mass*).

Before the Sheffield season begins, Berkshire Choral Festival will travel to Edinburgh, Scotland, for a nine-day session on the campus of the University of Edinburgh. Joseph Cullen of the London Symphony Chorus and Huddersfield Choral Society will lead choristers in works by Mozart and Handel.

Following the Sheffield season, the festival travels to Salzburg, Austria, for a nine-day session conducted by Gary Thor Wedow. Haydn's *Paukenmesse* will be performed as part of the Sunday morning mass at the Salzburg Cathedral on Sept. 16. In nearby Mondsee, works by Schubert and Brahms will be performed in the Mondsee Basilica on Sat., Sept. 15.

Tickets for the Sheffield season are available through the box office, at 229-1999, or online at [www.chorus.org](http://www.chorus.org).

—Trudy Weaver Miller



**Arbor Day in Sheffield.** The Sheffield Tree Project held its 10th annual Arbor Day Celebration and Proclamation on April 28 at the American Legion Post 340 off Rte 7. Volunteers, legionnaire's and board members planted 3 trees. Another planting event took place the day before at the Bushnell-Sage Library, to replace a tree damaged by last year's storms. The Tree Project has overseen the planting of over 100 trees in Sheffield and Ashley Falls, helping Sheffield to receive the honor of becoming a Tree City USA in 2009 and 2010, with the 2011 renewal in progress.

### NEW WAY TO GET SCHOOL NEWS

The Southern Berkshire School District now has a blog, InsideSBSRD. Posts include news, profiles of outstanding students, school events and messages about school sports, theater, clubs and other groups. Both students and teachers contribute items. Alumni are invited to contribute to their own page. Like all blogs, comments are invited and welcome.

The blog can be found at [insidesbrsd.edublogs.org](http://insidesbrsd.edublogs.org), or follow links from the district's home page at [www.sbrsd.org](http://www.sbrsd.org) or the Town's website at [www.sheffieldma.gov](http://www.sheffieldma.gov).



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### LIFE ALONG THE HOUSATONIC: DON'T DIS THE RIVER

One day in early April, as I walked out of the Sheffield Covered Bridge toward the parking lot, a group of canoers was getting out of their cars. Two cars had New York plates, the other Massachusetts plates. Judging from their looks, the locals were the guides. The dress and speech of the others suggested modestly affluent foreign visitors.

Heading into the bridge, one of the guides said, "Here is our heavily polluted Housatonic River."

Turning back, I offered that the river wasn't all that bad. "You can swim in it, and eat fish from it, as do the eagles and heron. Locals and wildlife love it."

Before hurrying on, the guide looked at me, clearly bewildered. Walking home, I thought about his misperception that the river here in Sheffield was heavily polluted.

I've lived in the valley of the Housatonic for almost 70 years. In the late 1950s a friend and I trapped hundreds of

muskrat from the river each season, skinning them, scraping and pegging the drying pelts. We earned 50 cents apiece for the furs. None of the skins or carcasses showed any abnormalities from spending their lives in the river, and we would have noticed such uneconomic things.

Before the many mills along the river stopped dumping chemicals and the towns began to treat their sewage before discharging it, I neither would have eaten the fish nor swam in the water, which was foamy and colorful at times. The water treatment plants restored normal oxygen levels to the waters, which soon fostered more and various fish and set the stage for the return of fish eaters and a diverse wildlife. PCBs, the worst of the mill effluent, are heavy molecules that sink in still water, making them more a problem upstream near Pittsfield than here in Sheffield.

I regularly walk the easy parts of

the river, the least likely areas to showcase wildlife. Even within that limited exploration I find an intense flux of life on and about the river. Over the past decade I have photographed bald eagles, osprey, great blue heron, little blue heron, green heron, great egret, hooded and common mergansers, kingfisher, herring gulls and otter—all fish eaters—as well as many eager human fishermen of all ages at the Covered Bridge and along the river.

Local farms harvest many square miles of cornfields for both animal and human consumption from the river flood plain. Many communities draw drinking water from valley shallow and deep wells.

In addition to plentiful bank beaver that chew on field corn and riverside trees but do not bother to build dams that would be lost to flood, I find numerous raccoon tracks in the mud flats, and watch killdeer and plovers pace the shores

## BERKSHIRE CHORAL FESTIVAL

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**Saturday July 14** 7:30 pm  
Beethoven – *Missa Solemnis* (Latin)

**Saturday, July 21** 7:30 pm  
*Defiant Requiem* (Latin) (based on the Verdi Requiem)  
\*PREPS will not be offered prior to this concert.

**Saturday, July 28** 7:30 pm  
Opera Scenes:  
Puccini – *La Rondine* Act II (Italian)  
Bizet – *Les Pêcheurs de Perles* Act I (French)  
Verdi, *Aida* Act II (Italian)

**Saturday, August 4** 7:30 pm  
Schubert – *Mass in A-flat Major* (Latin)  
Haydn – *Mass in D-minor* (Latin)  
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below banks riddled with cliff swallow cavities. The size of the snapping turtles laying their eggs in the warm sand bars and riverbanks is a marvel.

In the many oxbows and bends, Canada geese, mallards, wood ducks and black ducks shelter their families and teach them to dabble for river algae and edible weeds. In late summer, herds of geese roam the riverbanks eating grasses and stripping seed heads. As the oxbows dry out, heron and egret congregate to feast on trapped fish.

Taking advantage of such abundance, higher predators prowl the valley, sly and quick. Coyote, fisher cats and mink prey on goose, duck, turtle, frog, clam, river rat, mice and crayfish, as well as their eggs. Human hunters also take coyote, goose and duck in season.

Heavily polluted? The plain evidence shows not. Splashing kayakers, picnickers, hikers and submarine-race watchers



Down by the river: The Covered Bridge, above, and a great blue heron, left.

[Editors' note: According to Dennis Regan of the Housatonic Valley Association, which monitors the river and organizes river trips and other activities, technically, the river in Sheffield is not polluted. It does have low levels of PCBs, but they are found in the river soils and in some floodplain areas. Fish caught in the river should not be eaten since they are contaminated with PCBs, which accumulate in fatty tissue and accumulate up the food chain. Fish contamination signs are posted all the way down into Connecticut. But the river is safe to boat in, and it is above safe standards to swim in.]

come in droves to our river. The diverse animal community is perhaps larger than when the first Sheffield families carved a community from the wilderness and necessarily lived off the river themselves.

Unobservant visitors dissing our Housy? I think not. Take a walk. Spread the word.  
—Fred Harwood

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### 'A BIG HOLE WHERE MY DAUGHTER USED TO BE'

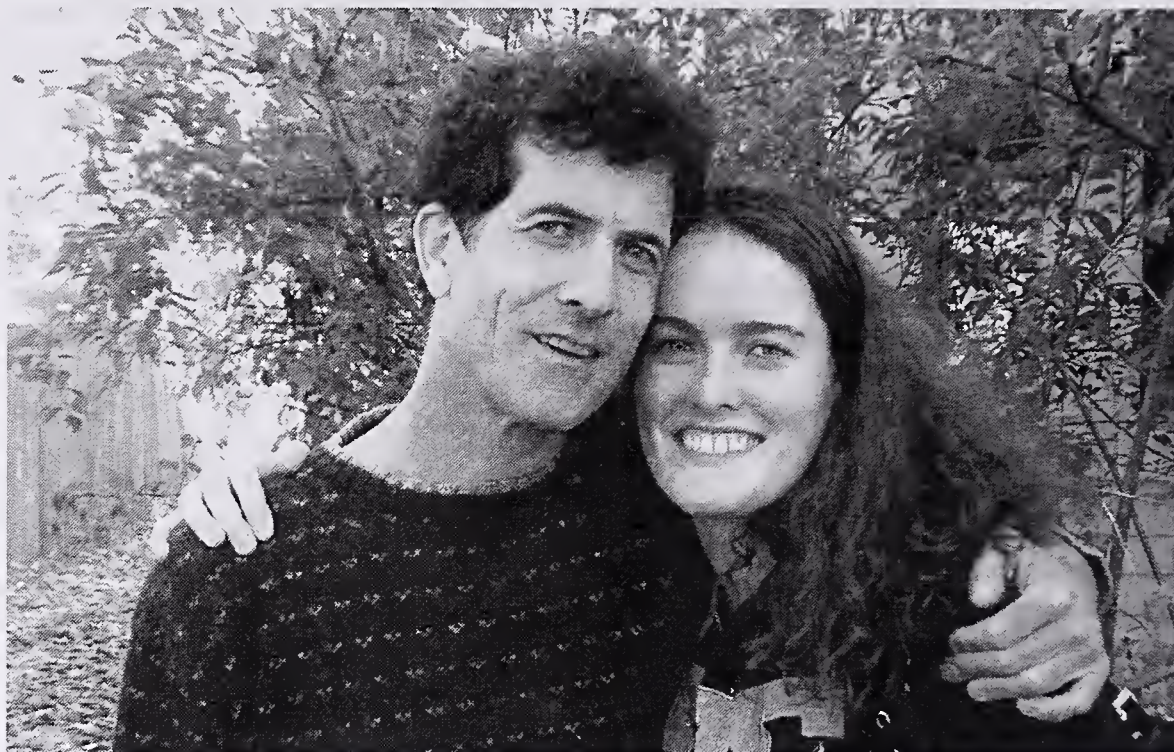
Two months after a terrible auto accident took the life of Moira Banks-Dobson at age 24, her family and friends are still picking up the pieces of their lives.

The pain doesn't lessen, says her father, Ted Dobson, owner of Equinox Farm on Bow Wow Rd. "But the knowledge of community support has meant the world to me. It's meant the world to me."

Moira's funeral was held on March 4 at Dewey Memorial Hall. So many people came to pay their respects that it was standing room only inside the hall, people spilled out the doors onto the sidewalk and parking lot outside and a second service was held.

At the service, her father said, "You came here with fire and experienced ice. You stayed around as long as you could. Moira, when love runs this deep, whole universes are created. You, my sweet, altered us all. Bon voyage, Moira."

Moira was living with her father, brother Ben and his wife and children, and two sisters, Melany, 19, and Freya, 15 on Main St. in Sheffield.



*Ted Dobson and Moira Banks-Dobson*

An honors student at Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, CT, Moira had graduated from Yale University last year. She was working as a special tutor for the Pittsfield Public Schools, where she

taught all subjects. Moira had many interests. She was an athlete, a musician and a part-time bee-keeper.

Ted remembered his last conversation with her. "She was looking forward to

### ON THE SCENE OF A TRAGEDY

There have been fatal traffic accidents in Sheffield before, but veteran first-responders say they never saw anything quite as bad as what they found on Route 7 just south of Kellogg Ave. after dark on Feb. 28.

At about 6:50pm four cars were heading south and a dual-wheeled one-ton pick-up truck was weaving north.

As Sheffield Police Chief James M. McGarry later told the Associated Press, the pickup truck struck all four cars. "The first two were glancing blows. The third was a head-on and [the truck] landed on top of the fourth car. The driver of that vehicle was trying to turn to get out of his way."

Felicia Packard, 31, of Pownal, VT, suffered minor injuries in her Subaru Legacy. Joseph Webb, 41, of North Canaan, CT, was unhurt in his 2009 Volkswagen.

Russell Brown of Canaan, CT, had to be cut free from the wreckage of his 2005 Dodge Neon. He was rushed to Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield and airlifted to Bay State Medical Center in Springfield, where he was in intensive care for more than a week. Brown is currently in a rehabilitation facility, where he is expected to remain "for a very long time," according to his fiancée. He is unable to walk and can barely speak.

Behind Brown, Moira was driving home to Sheffield from her job in Pittsfield in her 2009 Toyota Corolla. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

Sheffield police got there about five minutes after the accident, already on the lookout after being alerted by a motorist

to a truck swerving all over the road. Route 7 ended up being closed for many hours from Sheffield-Egremont Rd. north to Lime Kiln Rd.

After the crash, the driver of the pickup truck climbed down off the wrecked Toyota and fled. Police say he was located at 7:20.

Sheffield police charged Fred Weller, 35, of Newtown, CT, with motor vehicle homicide, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license, two counts of leaving the scene of personal injury/death, intimidation of a witness, operating to endanger and operating under the influence of liquor, fifth offense.

It was actually Weller's seventh known drunk driving arrest, but Massachusetts does not have a specific statute beyond a fifth such charge. There are no records of Weller possessing a valid driver's license since it was revoked when Weller was first arrested and convicted while twice operating intoxicated as a Vermont teenager.

Despite a long record of DUIs, assault and other offenses, Weller has spent only a few months in jail. At the time of his Sheffield arrest, Weller was free on \$15,000 bail in a Connecticut case for which he faces charges of assault and probation violations related to a previous drunken-driving conviction, chief probation officer Ulysses Serpa said. Weller is currently awaiting trial at Berkshire Superior Court, held on \$1 million bail.

—J.R.





*Left: Moira with her brother, Benjamin, and sisters Melany and Freya. Below: With her mother, Anne Banks.*



doing some new things with her life. She was trying to figure out what direction to go. She had gotten a new job the day she was killed." The new job involved caring for young children.

"She was a magnet to all who knew her," says her mother, Anne Banks. Anne owns and operates the organic farm

Earthborn Garden in Hillsdale, NY, tilling the land every spring with a horse-drawn plow. Banks also teaches music at Indian Mountain School in Lakeville and performs in Kitchen Kaylie Band, a trio that plays traditional folk, bluegrass and some jazz.

"We all loved her so much," Anne says. "Moira's loss is unimaginable, and yet it's real. We are trying to find our way forward on a new, winding journey, while carefully sifting through the wreckage of what's left and what's remembered."

"It's a big hole where my daughter used to be," says Ted. "One minute she is here, the next day she is not."

Donations in memory of Moira Fenno Banks-Dobson can be made to the Railroad Youth Project, 60 Bridge St., Great Barrington, MA 01230, 528-2475, [www.rsyp.org](http://www.rsyp.org).

—Jim Russell

## BIDWELL HOUSE EVENTS

Bidwell House, a museum of Berkshire Colonial history in Monterey, will present a series of events focused on the lore, lives and ways of the Colonial inhabitants of Berkshire County, with a special emphasis on the grounds and towns immediately surrounding this unique 18<sup>th</sup> century home.

On Sun., May 27, at 3pm, singer-songwriter Diane Taraz will sing "Songs of Home and Hearth" from her early American repertoire and play her lap dulcimer and guitar to celebrate the 2012 season opening. Refreshments will be served.

On Sat., June 16, at 10am, Tom Ryan, Southern Berkshire Service Forester from the Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation, will give a talk and walk on forest management and forest health. Attendees can tour forest lots in various stages of re-growth as well as a recently harvested section.

On Sat., June 30, at 10am, John Demos, Samuel Knight Professor of American History Emeritus at Yale University will give a history talk on "The Unredeemed Captive: Her Journey and My Own." The talk looks back at Demos' prize-winning 1994 book about the 1704 attack on Deerfield and the fate of captive Eunice Williams. Held at Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham.

Bidwell House Museum is open Thursdays to Mondays (closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays) from 11am to 4pm with tours on the hour, Memorial Day to Columbus Day. The museum grounds—192 acres of woods, fields, historic stonewalls, trails and picnic sites—are open all year free of charge. For more information see [www.bidwellhousemuseum.org](http://www.bidwellhousemuseum.org).



*The community turns out: Crowds pay respects at the funeral at Dewey Hall.*

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### MUSIC & MORE IN NEW MARLBOROUGH

Music and More's 2012 season kicks off with art shows and a writing contest.

The opening reception for "Moments of Focus," a juried photography show, is May 25 from 5 to 7pm. The photos will be judged by David LaSpina of Bard College at Simon's Rock. The show runs May 26 to June 17.

"Sculpture on the Green" features pieces by Toby Frank, Joe Wheaton, Robin Tost, Eric Callahan, Ellen Murtaugh and River Kelly. The opening reception is June 22, also 5 to 7pm, and show runs June 23 to July 8.

Both shows will be held at the Meeting House Gallery on Route 57 in New Marlborough.

Additional art shows and literary events are scheduled. Later in the season, in September and October, the festival hosts music events, including performances by the Daedalus String Quartet, the Boston Classical Trio and the Jewish

Jazz Project Ensemble.

Music & More, directed by its founder Harold Lewin, is in its 21st year. The festival is sponsored by the New Marlborough Village Association, membership in which gives a discount on tickets. The New Marlborough Village Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering historic preservation of the 1839 Meeting House on the village green, promoting appreciation of the area's natural beauty and heritage and sponsoring and promoting cultural programming that will enhance the civic life of New Marlborough and the surrounding community.

For more information, visit [www.newmarlborough.org](http://www.newmarlborough.org) or call 229-2785.

### MYSTERY WRITER'S CONTEST

The deadline for submissions to the 2012<sup>1</sup> Murder Mystery Writer's Contest, sponsored by Music & More and the New Marlborough Village Association, is June 15. This year's contest, titled "Slice 'em & Dice 'em or I think I need to Lie Down Now," culminates on Aug. 4 at 4:30pm with a free public reading at the Meeting House. Judges will select the top three winners, with prizes of \$300, \$200 and \$100.

Guidelines call for the victim or victims to be killed off with organic edibles that are ingested, absorbed or otherwise introduced into the body with lethal intent. In addition, this year each story must include at least one cliché relating to the story (i.e. "blood is thicker than water"). A humorous approach is welcome but not required. The contest is limited to full- or part-time Berkshire County residents.

Manuscripts must be emailed to [mysterywriterscontest2@gmail.com](mailto:mysterywriterscontest2@gmail.com) or sent on a CD to John Manikowski, P.O. Box 149, Mill River, MA, 01244. The contest, conceived and directed by John Manikowski, is made possible through a grant from the New Marlborough Cultural Council together with New Marlborough's Music & More program.

For more about this year's contest and last year's winning stories, see [www.newmarlborough.org/Writers.htm](http://www.newmarlborough.org/Writers.htm).

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## MUMBET DOLLS AGAIN FOR SALE AT ASHLEY HOUSE

The Ashley House, a Trustees of Reservations property in Ashley Falls, tells the intertwined stories of the Ashley family and the enslaved African Americans who lived here in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Col. John Ashley supported the American Revolution, heading a committee that wrote the fiery Sheffield Resolves, a petition against British



*Mumbet Doll, designed by Ruth LaPrise.*

tyranny and manifesto for individual rights, in 1773. His financial success was based in part on the labor of five enslaved African Americans.

Inspired by Revolutionary-era rhetoric and her own desire for freedom, Mumbet,

who was enslaved in the Ashley House, helped to end slavery in Massachusetts. In 1781, she sued Col. Ashley for her freedom—and won—and took the name Elizabeth Freeman.

Last year volunteers made nearly 60 Mumbet dolls, following a design by Sheffield native Ruth LaPrise. Over the past few months, 10 local women have been sewing more dolls, using fabrics donated by Country Curtains. The dolls are sold for \$25 in the gift shops of the Ashley House, Naumkeag and the Mission House in Stockbridge, as well as in other local shops. Proceeds go to

general maintenance needs at the Ashley House. Each doll is signed by the doll-maker and comes with a pamphlet telling Mumbet's story.

To celebrate doll-makers' time, talent and efforts, they will be honored with a tea on May 12. The event is hosted by the Ashley House Property Committee, a volunteer group that supports the Ashley House.

The Ashley House is an anchor site on the African American Heritage Trail, which encompasses 29 Massachusetts and Connecticut towns and celebrates African Americans who played pivotal roles in national and international events, as well as ordinary people of achievement.

For more information about the Ashley House and the African American Heritage Trail, visit [www.TheTrustees.org](http://www.TheTrustees.org) or [www.AfricanAmericanTrail.org](http://www.AfricanAmericanTrail.org). The Ashley House is located at 117 Cooper Hill Rd. E-mail [westregion@ttor.org](mailto:westregion@ttor.org).

—Trudy Weaver Miller

### HELP WITH THE SHEFFIELD FAIR!

Plans are underway once again for the Sheffield Fair. The Fair, part of the 12<sup>th</sup> annual *Sheffield in Celebration*, will take place at the Town Park on Sat., Sept. 8, from noon to 5pm.

We want to grow the Fair—the booths, exhibitions, food, activities, music, animal and other agricultural displays—and are looking for people interested in helping us do that.

Have a new idea or addition to the fair? Interested in doing publicity or helping with the organizing? Do you have experience with animal showmanship and fitting competitions and judging? Want to help set up booths or directing parking on the day? Let us know.

We are also looking for vendors and exhibitors.

If you would like to participate, call Kathy Orlando at 229-8789, email [sheffieldfair@gmail.com](mailto:sheffieldfair@gmail.com) or write the Sheffield Fair, P.O. Box 1339, Sheffield, MA 01257.



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### EVENT PROMOTION INTERN WANTED

Help promote and grow Sheffield's Dewey Memorial Hall, home of the Folk Music Series, contra dances, Housatonic Valley Art League shows, and other fun events. We are seeking someone to manage our e-newsletter and databases and to post announcements with media outlets.

Maybe you want to learn or maybe you already know how and want to help out. This is a volunteer position, but there are perks. The work takes an estimated 3-6 hours per month. You need your own computer, writing skills, and Internet savvy.

Contact [Laura@EveryonesInvited.com](mailto:Laura@EveryonesInvited.com).



[www.DeweyHall.com](http://www.DeweyHall.com)



## A POETRY DISCOVERY ON FRIDAY THE 13TH

I noticed the posters around town. There was to be a poetry reading at our library on Friday, April 13. Because I have just begun to try that mode of writing myself, my interest was piqued.

Ten people were scheduled to read work, some whose names I recognized—Pauline Clark, William Connell, Michelle Gillett, Hillary Russell—and others new to me—Mindy Dow, Cynthia Gardner, Joan Peronto, Philip Timpane, Lisk Van Pelt Dus and Irene Willis.

Poetry read-arounds are held on Saturday afternoons once a month at the Library from 3:30 to 5pm. Any one interested in reading and hearing poetry is welcome. Each session discusses one poet's work as well as readers' work. Coming up:

May 26: William Carlos Williams  
June 23: Billy Collins

I arrived somewhat early and was surprised to see chairs filling up. By the time the event began, the room was packed with people from Sheffield and all over the county.

As the readings progressed we were offered poems of humor, nature, relationships and magic. All were read with enthusiasm, modesty, and good nature. I realize this phrase is over used, but time did really fly. With characteristic graciousness, our librarian, Nancy Hahn served as hostess.

It was truly a great evening, although, somewhat humbling for a neophyte writer like myself. —*Marcia Savage*

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## TALK: LIFE IN IRAN

On April 20, Harry Conklin presented a slide show and commentary about his Peace Corps service in Iran from 1968-1971.

Harry was in a group of 50 American volunteers trained in Kurdish or Farsi for work in nursing, English, or agriculture. As an animal husbandry specialist, Harry was stationed in a remote Kurdish sheep station near the Iraq border. His projects included improved ways for feeding, breeding, and dipping. The slides revealed a goodly variety of shaggy sheep, including the prized fat-tail breed.

The beautiful city of Istfahan was a long bus ride away. Harry visited the tiled domes and doorways and the bazaars there, photographing street scenes and open-air tradesmen. Along the way he befriended many and appreciated the wisdom of ancient ways. For the capacity crowd in attendance, it was a rare treat to see these glimpses from 40 years ago.

—*Fred Gordon*

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## The Sheffield Historical Society



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The **1774 Dan Raymond House Museum** offers tours May through September. Come explore the daily lives of common people from the Revolutionary generation onward, including the intriguing history of the Sheffield Tory for whom the house is named.

The **Mark Dewey Research Center** houses the town's early archives, including tax and real estate records, historic photographs, and genealogical research. Open most Mondays and Fridays, from 1:30 to 4pm, year round.

The **1834 Old Stone Store** located on the Town Green functions as the Society's gift shop and exhibition space. Open weekends April to December.

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## NEW CATALOG SYSTEM COMING

Users of the Bushnell-Sage Library have been able to use the one shared catalog of Central and Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing, Inc. (C/W MARS), the public library consortium for the Central and Western Massachusetts libraries. The system also allows patrons to place holds on books they want to borrow from their home computers, reserve museum passes and read e-books online.

C/W MARS has announced that it will be changing the catalog software it uses, most likely on Memorial Day weekend. The Sheffield Library staff is preparing for the changeover. Since the catalog is bound to the borrowing software with which libraries check out books, you can expect some delays in the first few weeks of service as staff at all libraries in Berkshire County become acquainted with the new look.

The new catalog product, called

"Evergreen," is based on open-source software code, which makes it more cost-effective.

What will be different? For the patron, the look of the catalog interface. The catalog will integrate both the Central and Western regions into one, so there will be more choices in one simple search. Your personal account will be easier to negotiate through the use of tabs on your "dashboard." And you will be able to have up to 20 items on hold at a time.

If you keep your reading history or wish lists on the old system, it will not transfer over, unfortunately. So you may want to save those before the switch to Evergreen. In the new system, you can use the Lists option to create lists of titles by category and share and discuss them with friends.

There will likely be a transition time where patrons will be unable to access their accounts. Expect that holds,



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museum passes and payment of fines to be temporarily suspended sometime in May. The catalog might also not properly display which items are available. Please call the library at 229-7004 or visit in person to conduct library transactions during that time.

Since passwords are set by the patron, not the library, your current PIN will disappear in the new system. Instead, use the last four digits of your library card for your first login, and you will then be prompted to change your password.

We thank you for your patience as we transition to the new system, and hope you will enjoy your new online experience.

## TALK: WILDLIFE IN SHEFFIELD

"Keep the 'wild' in wildlife" was the theme of an illustrated talk by Andrew Madden, supervisor of the Western Wildlife District of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife of the Commonwealth, at the Bushnell-Sage Library on April 27. Some 50 people attended.

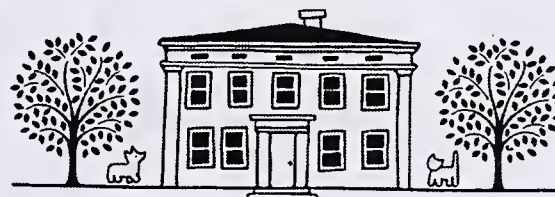
One of the interesting realities of life in our times is that many species, some once almost extinct, are expanding rapidly. Madden's office receives most calls about bears. Bears are highly intelligent creatures, and while females are more limited in their range, males travel hundreds of miles and can remember for years where they have found food. His advice for those encountering a bear is to never run away. Instead, talk to it, while backing slowly away, always allowing space for the bear to retreat.

Coyotes are found throughout the Commonwealth and are very successful in adapting to their surroundings. Bobcats are increasingly common and are frequently confused with mountain lions.

Madden is concerned about the sudden and unexpected decline of bats because of white nose syndrome. Some 5.5 million bats in the U.S. have died recently. The cause of the syndrome is unknown and the effects on wildlife are serious, since bats feed on insects.

Madden also noted that there are about 900 moose in the Commonwealth, that beaver are flourishing, and that Sheffield has the distinction of being home to rattlesnakes.

—John Wightman



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## CHURCH SCHOOL BAKE SALE PROVIDES EASTER DINNERS

The children from the church school program of the Christ Episcopal/Trinity Lutheran and Old Parish churches wish to thank the people of Sheffield for helping to make the fourth annual Church School Bake Sale a success. Over \$900 was realized from the sale and donations.

The proceeds were used to supply complete Easter ham dinner baskets for the families who use the Sheffield Food Program. Enough money was raised to purchase supermarket gift cards to include in the baskets. The children helped assemble the baskets on Palm Sunday morning for delivery Monday morning. Jennifer Otte and Joanne Derwitsch from Christ Episcopal/Trinity Lutheran Church organized the project.

The two Sheffield churches have shared a church school program for eight years. In recent years the program has focused on caring for local and world communities. In addition to the Easter dinner baskets, an Advent penny collection project successfully purchased a flock of chicks, two llamas and a swarm of bees through Heifer International, an organization that works to develop programs that alleviate hunger and poverty in various areas of the world.

—Margaret Joseph, Director of Children & Youth Ministries

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL OF SOUTH EGREMONT

The First Congregational Church of South Egremont is holding a baked ham dinner on Sat., May 19, from 5 to 7pm. Adults, \$10; children 5-12, \$5, children under 5, free.

Crafters and artisans: The Church is looking for items to be donated for a silent auction that will be held on Sat., July 21. There will be no tag sale this year.

For more information, call 413-528-2368.

## RELIGIOUS SERVICES

### ASHLEY FALLS

**Greenwoods Community Church** (non-denominational), 355 Clayton Rd. 229-8560; parsonage (860) 824-7442. Sunday: 9:30am Sunday School (ages 3-adult); 10:30am Worship Service, nursery care provided. Rev. Edward M. Eastman Jr., Pastor

**Trinity Methodist (United Methodist)**, 1156 Ashley Falls Rd. Sunday: 11am Service. Ken Phesay.

### EGREMONT

**First Congregational Church of South Egremont**, 34 Main St. 528-2209. Sunday Worship: 10am. Rev. Steven Blackburn and Rev. Susan Wyman, Supply Pastors.

### GREAT BARRINGTON

**Congregation Ahavath Shalom** (reconstructionist), North St. 528-4197. Friday, 8pm & Saturday, 10am. Services not held every week. Schedules are updated on answering machine

**Hevreh of Southern Berkshire**, 270 State Rd. 528-6378. Friday: 7:30pm Shabbat Service. Saturday: 10am Shabbat service & Torah study. Rabbi Deborah Zecher, Associate Rabbi Ari Rosenberg

### SHEFFIELD

**Christ Church Episcopal & Trinity Lutheran**, 180 Main St. 229-8811. Sunday: 8am & 10am Holy Eucharist; 10am Sunday School & child care; Thursday: 10am Holy Eucharist & Healing. Rev. Anne Ryder

**Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses**, Route 7 & Kellogg Rd. 229-8649. The public is welcome.

**Old Parish** (United Church of Christ), 125 Main St. 229-8173. Sunday: 10am Worship. Rev. Jill Graham, Pastor

**Our Lady of the Valley (Catholic)**, Maple Ave. 229-3028. Saturday: 4:00pm Mass; Sunday: Sheffield 7:30am, 9am Masses; Mill River 10:30 Mass. Rev. Bruce Teague

**Sheffield Chapel (non-denominational)**, 1970 N. Main St. 528-2911, [www.sheffieldchapel.org](http://www.sheffieldchapel.org). Sunday: 10:45am Worship, 9:30am Sunday School for all ages. Wed.: Group Prayer Time 7pm. Pastor: Corey McLaughlin

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(see details on page 11)



## EVENTS AT THE SENIOR CENTER

**The universe.** In late May, about 20 Sheffield seniors were treated to a lecture about the universe by Sam Cabot, a junior at Berkshire School. Sam's second astronomy lecture at the Senior Center included a slide presentation of the solar system, planets, asteroids and nebulae.

The lecture was followed by an evening field trip to the Dixon Observatory at Berkshire School, where seniors viewed the planet Venus, the rings of Saturn and the Great Orion Nebula.

**Life.** The Senior Life History Project finished up in mid-April. Seniors and middle school students worked together over a period of eight weeks to create a scrapbook for each senior detailing his or her life journeys. A party held on the last day was attended by State Representative William "Smitty" Pignatelli.

**Breakfast.** The third men's breakfast was a rousing success, attended by 30 hungry men (note: men do eat quiche, especially when it's made by Ed Knapp). The topic of the breakfast was "stories about what you love most that is not human." Discussion seemed to revolve around the Berkshires and wives! Meanwhile, a live-cam video feed of a family of bald eagles nesting in Davenport, IA, was being viewed on the new 62-inch, high-definition TV given by the Friends of the Sheffield Senior Center. The next men's breakfast will be held in June.

**Butterflies.** Some 30 people traveled by bus to the Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory & Gardens in South Deerfield, MA. The 8,000-square foot conservatory houses nearly 4,000 native and tropical butterflies year round. It is also home to many plants and a pond with a small waterfall and brilliantly colored Japanese carp, called koi. After, the group stopped at the flagship Yankee Candle store. The trip was arranged by Dawn Massini, a member of the Council on Aging.

**Coming events:** The annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on May 23. The Friends of the Sheffield Senior Center Tag Sale on June 2 from 8am to 2pm. A fraud-awareness program sponsored by Berkshire Bank. A trip to Chesterwood and Hancock Shaker Village. On June 18, "Sharing your Travels" will feature Gilian Shallcross and her trip to Burma.



Seniors and the middle school students who worked on the life history project. State Representative William "Smitty" Pignatelli is in the back, third from left.



Teresa Bellizzi views Venus through the telescope at Berkshire School's Dixon Observatory as student Sam Cabot looks on.

A trip to the Mac-Haydn Theatre in July to see a production of "Legally Blonde." A Mother-Daughter-Granddaughter Tea at the Senior Center.

**Ongoing activities:** Computer workshops on email, Google searching and Skype. Exercise, sit-to-be-fit and qijong classes. Wii bowling. Writers' Forum. Knit and Stitch. Check with the Senior Center for details.

The Sheffield Senior Center is located at 25 Cook Rd., just behind the American Legion. It is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 2:30pm. John-Arthur Miller is director and Barbara Fletcher is assistant director. They can be reached at 229-7037.

—Trudy Weaver Miller

## FRIENDS OF THE SENIOR CENTER

On April 14, country stars Romeo and Lockwood held a concert to benefit the Friends of the Sheffield Senior Center at Dewey Hall. Jeannie Romeo and Alice Lockwood did tributes to Patsy Cline, Brenda Lee and Connie Francis to a full house. It was a wonderful time, with much audience participation—singing, clapping of hands, stomping of feet and even dancing. In addition to the concert, there was a Chinese auction and a raffle. What an enjoyable evening it was! The Friends would like to thank Romeo and Lockwood for donating their time and superb talents to benefit our organization.

**Tag sale coming.** The next big event being planned by the Friends is our annual tag sale. The date has been set for Sat., June 2, at the Senior Center. We will be accepting donations at the Senior Center on Fri., June 1, from 11am to 2:30pm. See you there!

**Social media.** And... The Friends have entered the electronic age! We now have a Facebook page! Check us out at The Friends of the Sheffield Senior Center on [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com), where you'll see upcoming events and pictures. We will be updating this page regularly and expanding the content.

**Come on down.** Also, don't forget to stop by the Senior Center anytime to join in the fun activities, work on a puzzle or just to visit!

—Claudia Martin



## FROM THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

### Feb. 6 working meeting

Highway Superintendent Ed Lord was present to discuss repairs that might be needed on County Rd. Discussion ensued regarding purchase of a new roadside mower for the Highway Department. *[The article allocation money for the mower was approved at Town Meeting.]*

The Board voted to compensate Richard M. Boardman \$20 per hour as a Temporary Highway Employee. It discussed the form to be used for the Town Administrator's evaluation on Feb. 16. It then discussed an employee complaint and decided to ask an independent outside person to investigate and make recommendations to the Board.

### Feb. 6 regular meeting

The Board discussed the vacancy on the Planning Board, to be filled through a joint appointment of the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board. David Smith, Sr., Chair, Peter Cherneff, and James Collingwood, Jr., were present from the Planning Board. Two people applied for the position. The two boards voted 5 to 1 to appoint Maria Nation for a term to expire on June 30. *[She is running unopposed for a full term in May.]*

The Board discussed the municipal health care reform legislation enacted in 2011 and the next steps in the process. The Board decided to change insurance benefits as allowed by the act.

Treasurer Michael Ovitt was present and stated that the Town would be having an Insurance Premium Holiday for the month of March, with a combined savings to the Town and employees of approximately \$26,000.

The Board decided to table discussion of various employee appointments. It discussed the Selectmen's Annual Report. Kathy Roth from the Community Preservation Coalition in Boston contacted the Board regarding the Community Preservation Act; the Board decided that Chairman Rene Wood would follow up.

Wood thanked Kiwanis for the generous donation of three defibrillators that are now located at the Town Hall, Library and the Senior Center.

The Board voted to enter into executive session for the purpose of collective bargaining.

### Feb. 10 working meeting

David West requested to video record the meeting. His request was granted by Chairman Wood.

Transfer Station employees Donald Wilson, head attendant, Diane Farnham and Janet Hogelin, attendants, were present. Discussion ensued regarding Transfer Station policies and job descriptions, including signage, hours of operation, overtime, bulky waste, swap shop, building debris, metal box and use of time. The Board reminded the Transfer Station

employees that all issues concerning the Transfer Station should be brought to the Town Administrator's attention.

The Board voted to appoint Betty Pettersson to the Insurance Advisory Committee.

### Feb. 21 regular meeting

The Board voted to sign a letter of intent to participate in the FY 2013 Southern Berkshire Household Hazardous Waste Program.

Fire Chief Rick Boardman was present to talk about reimbursement for firefighters taking an EMS course. After discussion, the Board asked him to discuss increasing the compensation for training with members of the Fire Department before further discussion with the Board. Selectman Julie Hannum asked Chief Boardman to make sure requests for reimbursement for training are filled out completely.

Chief Boardman told the Board that the new propane tank could be placed next to the Fire House rather than the Railroad Barn. He also said that Engine 3 needs repair work. He will discuss this further with Town Administrator Rhonda LaBombard once an estimate is received.

Claudia Martin, president of the Friends of the Senior Center, was present to discuss possible fundraising ideas. The Board said that it would like to receive input from the Friends of the Library also. A joint working session with the Friends of the Senior Center, Friends of the Library and the Board of Selectmen will be arranged. The Board encouraged the Friends of the Senior Center to research grants and requested that the Friends pass that information to the Town Administrator as they move forward.

The Board discussed the allocation amount for the Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation Corporation and decided to invite someone from the organization to a future meeting.

Administrator LaBombard noted that the Town recently received a Materials Recycling Facility payment of \$4,774.72 and thanked the residents for their participation in our recycling program.

The Board entered into executive session to discuss collective bargaining and cable license renewal.

## BULKY WASTE COLLECTION

Sheffield residents who have purchased a FY2012 Transfer Station sticker can take up to one pickup-truck load of furniture, rugs, small pieces left over from a do-it-yourself project and other bulky waste to the Transfer Station Fri., May 18, 2 to 4pm, Sat., May 19, 8am to 4pm, and Sun., May 20, 8am to noon.

A coupon is required (one per household), obtainable at the Sheffield Tax Collector's office, or by mail by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope, including your license plate number, to the Treasurer/Collector's Office, P.O. Box 367, Sheffield, MA 01257.

Not accepted: demolition debris (sheet rock, plaster, fiberglass), tires, cathode ray tubes (TVs, computer monitors), wood, propane tanks, car batteries, recyclable metals, toxic materials (pesticides, chemicals, oil, etc.) and items that can fit in the trash compactor. No refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners or dehumidifiers; other "white goods" and recyclable metals can be put in the metals container next to compactor. For more information, contact David Steindler at 229-2628 or Town Hall at 229-7000, ext. 152.



## TRANSFER STATION HOURS

TUES. & FRI.: 1PM-4PM; SAT.: 8AM-4PM;  
SUN.: 8:30AM-2PM

### March 5 working meeting

The Board discussed updating the personnel policy manual.

### March 5 regular meeting

Thomas Carmody, the Town's Zoning Enforcement Officer, was present to give an update on the Woodedge property. The Board started to discuss forming a Survey Board and decided to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

The Board voted to appoint James Collingwood, Jr., as a member of the bylaw Review Committee.

David Smith, Sr., Chair of the Planning Board, was present to discuss the proposed sign bylaw changes. A public hearing will be held on March 28, and the proposed changes will be posted on the Town website and available in the Town Clerk and Town Administrator's office. The Board voted to continue the process that will put the revisions on the Annual

Town Meeting Warrant. [See also Planning Board notes on page 22; the bylaw revisions did pass at Town Meeting.]

After discussion, the Board decided to install additional coat pegs at the Senior Center. A decision about permitted uses of the Senior Center will be discussed at a future meeting.

The Board voted to approve a letter to the Southern Berkshire Elderly Transport Corporation requesting usage data and a representative to attend a future meeting.

Selectman Julie Hannum requested that the Town follow up with Peter Niles from the Massachusetts Dept. of Transportation regarding the sidewalks in the center of Sheffield. After discussion, the Board decided that all communication with DOT be made through the Town Administrator's office. Chairman Wood presented a draft letter to the U.S. Department of Transportation in support of the Tiger IV grant application, which the

Board voted to approve.

Chairman Wood congratulated all the Mt. Everett students who made the Honor Roll. Selectman Hannum congratulated Seamus Wolfe who won the wrestling State Championship in his weight class.

Michelle Harwood inquired about Senior Center special account balances. David West submitted a letter of concern.

The Board voted to approve a temporary roadside event sign for the Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House, for their monthly contra and square dances to be held on the fourth Saturday of each month at Dewey Hall during 2012. The sign will be erected on the Village Green the Monday before each dance and removed the evening of each dance. Administrator LaBombard will advise Joe Baker that the application for the permit should be submitted in December prior to the first dance event.

*Continued on page 18*

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## MINUTES, continued from page 17

### March 9 working meeting

The Board discussed the final draft of the proposed Transfer Station Policies and Job Descriptions. Discussion ensued regarding bulky waste collection. The Board decided to discuss the storage shed and swap shop, disposal of batteries and light bulbs, air conditioning, signage and the metal bin at future meetings.

### March 19 working meeting

Animal Control Officer Marty Clark was present to discuss a dog bite incident. The Board decided to hold a public hearing on the matter on March 26. All involved parties will be notified by mail.

The Board voted to enter into executive session for the purpose of collective bargaining.

### March 19 regular meeting

The Board voted to establish a stabilization fund to set funds aside for

the purchase of a truck for the Highway Dept. and to transfer \$50,000 from free cash into the fund. [*The warrant article regarding this action was approved at Town Meeting.*]

Administrator LaBombard recommended that the Board adopt the Transfer Station Policies and Job Descriptions as submitted, and the Board so voted.

In a discussion regarding Municipal Health Care Reform, Town Administrator LaBombard recommended that the Board offer both the Value Plus and Benchmark health insurance plans to employees FY 2013. The Board so voted.

The Board discussed a citizen's petition received regarding zoning bylaws. The Board voted to refer it to the Planning Board. [*The warrant article based on this petition was "passed over" at Town Meeting.*]

The Board voted to appoint Christine Ludwiszewski to the Housing Commission for a term to expire June 30, 2014.

Janet Stanton was appointed by Administrator LaBombard to investigate a citizen's complaint regarding a town employee, an appointment ratified by the Board.

Building Inspector Carmody was present to discuss the contract with Full Circle Technologies for the online permitting software. Discussion ensued regarding the capabilities of the program. The Board voted to authorize Carmody to sign the contract as presented.

Carmody, in his role as Zoning Enforcement Officer, gave an update on the Woodedge property. He stated that the building had been removed at the expense of the owner.

Administrator LaBombard said that the elevator in Town Hall was in full service.

David West inquired about the maintenance of the Town's website and submitted a letter to the Board.

### March 26 working meeting

Chairman Wood opened a public hear-

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ing at 6pm to hear testimony regarding a dog bite incident on Home Rd. The victim was not present. Jessica Robbins, the dog owner, stated that she was present when the bite occurred and immediately called her dog into the house. Animal Control Officer Marty Clark stated that this was the second incident involving this dog and that in his opinion the dog has a vicious disposition. He recommended that the dog be euthanized. The Board voted to find that the dog owned by Jessica Robbins has a vicious disposition and authorized Clark to have the dog euthanized.

The Board voted that the Town of Sheffield elect to engage in the process to change health insurance benefits under the Municipal Health Care Reform act.

The Conservation Commission requested funds to hire a consultant. After discussion, the Board voted to approve the funds, with a cap of \$500, from the "Notice of Intent Wetlands" account.

Discussion ensued regarding a citizen's complaint regarding an employee. The Board decided to hold an executive session on April 2. The Board then voted to enter into executive session.

#### April 2 regular meeting

The Board met in executive session. Minutes of the regular session were not available at press time.

#### April 9 working meeting with the Council on Aging at the Senior Center

Discussion ensued regarding the proper procedures for the Council on Aging, Friends of the Senior Center and the Senior Center Director. Town Administrator LaBombard reminded the council that before it comes to the Town Administrator or the Board of Selectmen with an item, it needs to have come to a consensus.

Administrator LaBombard noted that window treatments had been purchased and would be delivered in approximately

## FREE DOCUMENT SHREDDING

Salisbury Bank is sponsoring a Community Shred-It Day in Sheffield on Sat., May 19, from 9am to 12 noon at its bank branch on North Main St. Each person may bring up to four boxes of paper for shredding by Shred-It personnel. (Paper only; no binders, please.)

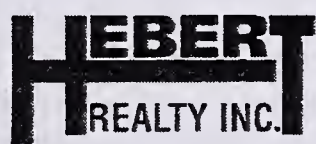
The bank is sponsoring the effort to help in the fight against identity theft while building community goodwill. The shredded paper will be recycled.

three weeks.

The meeting discussed fund balances. A new committee will be charged with finishing the basement. The council will discuss how to store tables and chairs and come to the Board of Selectmen with a recommendation. Administrator LaBombard reminded the council that the Highway Dept. is available to assist with setting up table and chairs with advance notice.

The meeting also discussed usage of the Senior Center, the Friends of the Senior Center and use of a Facebook page and

*Continued on page 20*



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## MINUTES, continued from page 19

having a link on the Town Website.

Administrator LaBombard stated that she has received complaints about the Senior Center being nicknamed "Cook Road Clubhouse."

Administrator LaBombard discussed the computer sign-in system and expressed concern that the number of drop-in visitors will be skewed due to the fact that everyone entering is asked to sign in as a drop-in visitor and that is not always the case. She also suggested that sensitivity be used towards those who may feel their privacy is being violated.

Carl Schuman inquired about solar panels and the external paint of the building.

### April 9 working meeting at Town Hall

The Board discussed the final draft of the 2012 Annual Town Meeting Warrant and voted to approve it as drafted.

The Board then discussed the School Task Force that will be created by the

School Committee to research long-range goals of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. The Board decided to draft a letter to the School Committee with its recommendations for the task force.

The Board voted to close the Senior Center on May 14 for the town elections as requested by Felecie Joyce, the Town Clerk.

Chairman Wood drafted a letter regarding the state's renewable energy siting bill that would take control of renewable energy away from localities. After discussion, the Board voted to approve the letter as drafted.

The Board discussed holiday pay for Transfer Station employees and decided to give them the option to close the Transfer Station on holidays. If they choose the option to close the Station, they will not receive holiday pay, as part-time employees are not eligible.

The Board discussed the Sheffield Food Program's request to store excess food at

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS THIS FALL

All 10 seats on the School Committee for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District are all up for election in November. To create a Committee with staggered terms, some of the seats will be for two-year terms and some for four-year terms. Sheffield has four seats, two for each term length. Candidates must decide which length of term they wish to be elected to and note it on their nomination papers.

Anyone from any of the five towns in the District interested in running for the School Committee can pick up nomination papers at any Town Clerk's office in the five towns or at the District clerk's office. Candidates must gather at least 27 signatures. Papers are due back to the Town Clerk by July 24.

Call the Superintendent's office, 229-8778, ext 304, with any questions.

the Senior Center and decided not to allow such storage at this time.

The Board voted to enter into executive session to discuss collective bargaining.



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## **CONSERVATION COMMISSION: February & March**

At the February meeting, a public hearing was held on a Request for Determination of Applicability of wetlands regulations filed by Charles Joyce for property on 175 County Rd., for installation of a pipe and creation of catch basin to redirect groundwater. Charles Joyce was present and stated that the work was to correct a situation in which runoff was passing onto a neighbor's property. The runoff is clean, from snow, ice melt and springs. Joyce said that he would install one pipe by drilling under the road, a task already done at the behest of Ed Lord, the highway superintendent, who had requested this be taken care of as soon as possible. Lord has inspected the drilled area and approved of it.

The Commission had conducted a site visit and approved of the project. The commission found that the regulations did not apply, with the special condition that straw bales be used for sediment control.

Keith Neil of 155 County Rd., a neighbor of Charles Joyce, was present and told the Commission he believes that the installation of the culvert will help, but not totally address the problem. He and Joyce requested that the Commission walk their properties again.

Bruce Howden was present to discuss installing a culvert in a brook on his property at 303 Rannapo Rd., which will allow access to his farmlands and fields. The Commission determined that an agricultural exemption applied in this matter and did not require the submitting of a Request

for Determination of Applicability.

The possible violations on the property of Edward Ustico, on Polikoff Rd., were discussed at the February and March meetings. The Commission found that the cost of a wetlands delineation and floodplain study was \$4,000 to 5,000. Terri Eucker is leaving the area, and the Commission has not found a consultant as yet.

Jared Clayton stated that invasive roses were widespread due to inadequate restoration of the property. He asked if action could at least be taken with the road area as that is unquestionably within the 100-foot buffer. He suggested that original mapping, done by Greylock Design and Associates, be referred to and it was agreed it could be used as a reference. At this point, Ed Ustico arrived and agreed to set up a time to walk the property with the Commission.

In March, Bob Fournier of S.K. Design Group. was present for Judith Schnurr, who is requesting a Certificate of Compliance for property on Bow Wow and Cook Rd. He stated that the original project was repairing a leaking sluice gate in the Mill Pond dam. The Commission stated that it wished to make a site visit to the property prior to making a decision.

June Wolfe and Lou Aragi were present. Aragi wished to clean out drains on agricultural property. Aragi and Wolfe believe that this project should fall under an agricultural exemption, but wanted to make the Commission aware of what

## **PAINT AND OIL RECYCLING**

Sheffield residents can recycle old oil paint, stains, paint thinners, turpentine and waste motor oil on Sat., May 19, from 9 to 11 am, at the Lenox Dept. of Public Works, 275 Main St.

Latex paint is not accepted at this event. Empty or dried-up cans of latex or oil-based paint can be disposed with the regular trash. Usable paint can be given away through freecycle.org or some non-profits.

To register, call the Center for Ecological Technology at 888-577-8448 ext. 30 or 14, email aric.brown@cetonline.org or visit [www.cetonline.org](http://www.cetonline.org).

they were intending to do. The Commission agreed that this project would be considered an agricultural exemption and would not require the submission of a Request for Determination of Applicability. It requested that Aragi submit his plan in writing, along with a map of the area so that it would be on record.

Rene Wood was present to discuss a grant available through the U.S. Department of Transportation to restore railroad lines. The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and Northwestern Connecticut Council of Governments are applying for the grant in the hopes of restoring lines of the Housatonic Railroad, covering an area from Kent, CT, through Sheffield. The applicants are asking that the Conservation Commissions of the towns involved provide letters of support for this project. Wood provided a draft letter of support and asked that the Commission approve it. The Commission decided to approve the draft pending consultation with Nat Karns of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.

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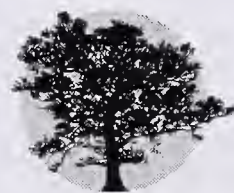
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## **PLANNING BOARD NEWS: January through April meetings**

The Planning Board has been very busy this year, meeting twice every month and three times in March. During this time, the principal effort of the Board and its Sign Bylaw Committee has been to draft a new sign bylaw to be proposed at the May Town Meeting. *[The extensive revision, which clarified terminology and set a new method for measuring sign height, did pass.]*

The bylaw is posted on the town website (follow the link to Planning Board to "Proposed Sign Bylaw Changes"). The Planning Board and the Bylaw Review Committee worked very hard to incorporate changes suggested by the Town Attorney, the Building Inspector and members of the public who participated in a public hearing on March 28 and April 11. As David Smith, Sr., explained at the March session, "The proposed bylaw is not perfect, but it will allow town businesses to function better than they can with the current bylaw. The bylaw can be improved each year. Many

people worked hard on this, and the Bylaw Review Committee will continue to exist and work on improving Sheffield bylaws."

The Bylaw Review Committee members are Christopher Tomich, Chair, David A. Smith, Sr., Vice Chair, David Macy, Peter Cherneff, Tony Gulotta, Eric Carlson and James T. Collingwood, Jr. Members of the public who attended the hearing were David West, Chapin Fish (representing the Berkshire County Board of Realtors), John Wightman, Ted Pitman, Rene Wood, Susan Butler and Robert Butler.

On Feb. 8, Chair David Smith, Sr., announced that the Board of Selectmen appointed Maria Nation as a new Planning Board Member, filling the seat Tomich resigned from. Maria was running unopposed for the seat in The town Election on May 14.

On March 14, Martin and Rosa Brunnschweiler presented a Form A Application (approval not required before subdivision). They explained

that while most of their farm on Boardman St. is going into an Agricultural Preservation Restriction, some property, including the house and barn, is being excluded. This application moves the boundary line to allow for a future well site.

The Board signed the mylar of the plan and accepted the application. Kathy Orlando from the Sheffield Land Trust presented draft language for a "Proposed Addition to Bylaws" that was previously discussed with the Planning Board. She explained how it had come about after talking with the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). The ZBA could not give the Brunnschweilers the dimensional variance needed to keep part of the farm with the Agricultural Preservation Restriction. The proposed addition to the bylaws would address such situations in the future through a Special Permit. *[See the related story opposite.]*

—Nadia Milleron,  
Planning Board Secretary

### **COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**

The Commission on Disabilities meets once a month at the Bushnell-Sage Library. The next three meetings are on May 18, June 15 and July 20 at 3:30pm. Meetings are open to the public.

Commission members are Laura Grunfeld, David Wells, Don Perry, Claudia Martin and Gail Mullen. Any Sheffield resident interested in joining or who needs information about services in South County for people with disabilities can contact Grunfeld at 229-2476 or [laura@everyonesinvited.com](mailto:laura@everyonesinvited.com).

Anyone who needs accommodation at a Town event should contact Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator Rhonda LaBombard at [LaBombard@sheffieldma.gov](mailto:LaBombard@sheffieldma.gov) or 413-229-7000 x152.

## **NEWS FROM THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

**Annual street lists (census).** If you have not responded to your census, please do so as soon as possible. We have an extremely low response rate this year, which will become problematic for our town for various reasons. If you did not respond, the police department will be enlisted to come to your residence to confirm occupancy.

**Elections and voter registration.** We have a full schedule of elections this year:

Mon., May 14: Annual Town Election

Thurs., Sept. 6: State Primary

Tues., Nov. 6: State/Presidential Election

Check your voter status! The deadline to register or change party status is 20 days before an election. All elections are held at the Senior Center on Cook Rd.

### **TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE**

Real Estate and Personal Property taxes were due on May 1. If you forgot, give the Tax Collector's office a call at 229-7000 x153.

**Dog licensing.** Please remember that if you have a dog six months of age or older, or if you reside in Sheffield at least 30 days of the year, you are required to license your dog. The fees are \$10 for intact dogs, \$5 for spayed/neutered dogs. Licensing takes place annually from March 1 to May 1. A fine of \$25 per dog will be imposed after the deadline.

If you have a new dog, it can be licensed anytime of year at the regular rate. With proof of rabies and spay/neuter status, you can mail in your request for a license. Make checks payable to the Town of Sheffield, and mail to Town Clerk, P.O. Box 175, Sheffield MA 01257. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

—Felecie Joyce, Town Clerk



## SHEFFIELD LOGS GO TO CHINA

R.J. Beham Forest Products in Ashley Falls started exporting Sheffield logs to China last year. "I'd been sending logs to Canada for several years," says Bob Beham, a licensed forester and head of the company. "The domestic market was depressed, and my log broker suggested China."

Bob harvests timber from Sheffield and surrounding towns. "It mostly comes from private land in and around Sheffield," he says, "on properties from 10 acres to 300 acres." The work is mostly done in winter and summer, avoiding spring, when the ground is soft.

Pine, hemlock and spruce are what China, and lately Vietnam, have been buying, mainly for use in construction. Bob sends hardwoods to veneer mills closer to home, in New York and Vermont. He also still ships logs to mills in Canada and Connecticut.

Before the logs are exported, they are debarked. Then they must pass inspection by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture to make sure they aren't carrying any insects. Once okayed, the logs are loaded into the end of a shipping container, tamped in with a special ramming device and trucked to ports in New York or New Jersey.

The log yard of R.J. Beham Forest Products is where Gingras Lumber used to be. Bob started at Gingras in 1978 and ran the company until 2005 with a partner.



*Bob Beham loads logs into a container bound for overseas.*

When the business dissolved, he started up his own.

Part of Bob's business is to advise landowners on how to maintain healthy woods, which often includes selective harvesting of trees, and on Chapter 61 forest management, a Massachusetts state program that allows holders of at least 10 acres of managed forest to be taxed at forest, not development, rates.

R.J. Beham Forest Products is located at 53 Clayton Rd., 229-2182. The company also sells firewood, both cut and split or log-length pole wood.

—Andrea Scott

## LAND TRUST WORKING TO SAVE RIVER LEA FARM ON BOARDMAN ST.

Since Sheffield was first settled in the 1700s, farmers have prized the rich "bottom land" along the Housatonic River. Since it was founded in 1989, the Sheffield Land Trust has sought to conserve farms and wildlife habitat along the river. In May, the organization will help the Brunnschweiler and Aragi families protect River Lea Farm on Boardman St., south of Kellogg Rd. The farm is nearly 300 acres.

Using the resource of the Massachusetts Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program, the Land Trust will purchase development rights on River Lea Farm from the Brunnschweilers. At the same time, the Aragi family of Pine Island Farm will purchase the protected farmland along with the farmhouse. The additional fields and cropland will help support



*Corn fields on River Lea Farm, between Boardman St. and the Housatonic River.*

Pine Island's dairy operation, the largest in Massachusetts. The farmhouse will be converted to a two-family residence, for use by farm workers.

This is the 18<sup>th</sup> APR that the Land Trust has worked on. Other farms in the Housatonic River Corridor that the Land Trust has helped families to protect include the Larkin Farm, the Corn Crib (now Tom Whalen's tree nursery), Balsam Hill Farm, Wolfe Spring Farm, the former Cavalier property that's now part of Pine Island Farm, the Egerton Farm and Howden Farm—more than 1,000 acres. The Land Trust is also currently working to conserve farms, fields and forests in the northwest part of town and to create a trail network in the center of town.

As part of completing any APR, the

state requires what is known as the "local contribution." For the River Lea project, the Land Trust must raise \$150,000 from individuals, businesses and foundations toward the total \$1 million cost. The remainder of the money then comes from the state.

Even in the current real estate market, Sheffield continues to be a destination for second homes, and the open flat river land that has made River Lea Farm so valuable for farming also makes it valuable as home sites with a view. The APR program is a way to ensure that families get the value out of their land without having to give up its farming use.

To make a donation or for more information contact the Land Trust at P.O. Box 940, Sheffield, MA 01257, 229-0234, sheffield@bcn.net, www.sheffieldland.org.

### ANNUAL MEETING IN JUNE

Come and see the farm! The Land Trust's annual meeting and potluck lunch will be held under a tent at River Lea Farm. All are welcome. The tentative date is Sat., June 30. Watch for more details closer to the date.



## KIWANIS NEWS AND EVENTS

**Eradicate tetanus!** Sheffield Kiwanis is kicking off its Project Eliminate with the sale of rubber wristbands that say "I saved a life for \$1.80!" The project is a joint effort between Kiwanis International and UNICEF to provide tetanus inoculations to women of child-bearing age in 36 countries around the world. The three initial shots cost \$1.80, less than the price of a cup of coffee.

In impoverished areas of the world, tetanus spores are transmitted through the soil; mothers and newborns are particularly vulnerable during childbirth. In fact, according to UNICEF, a newborn dies of tetanus every nine minutes.

The wristbands will be for sale at Berkshire Styles Salon, Gulotta's Mobil, Shear Image and Silk's Variety. Area churches are being invited to partner with Kiwanis in Project Eliminate. Other organizations or individuals who are interested in learning more can contact club coordinator Cynthia Pease at gretap98@yahoo.com.

**Successful food drive.** The Kiwanis 3rd Annual "Stuff a Bus" week, which concluded on April 21, was again a resounding success! Our thanks to all individuals and groups who donated the non-perishable food items. Truckloads of these charitable contributions were delivered to the Sheffield Food Assistance Program and the People's Pantry in Great Barrington. Denise Rueger headed the project. We join

with her in expressing our gratitude to all the members and other volunteers who manned the bus for the five days. We also appreciate Brian Palmer of Berkshire GMC offering us his parking lot and sheltering the bus overnight and the faithful crew from Radio WSBS, who were at the bus on April 20 showing their support for the cause.

**Service day.** Kiwanis International designated April 21, as "Kiwanis ONE Day," a time for local clubs to perform a hands-on service project in their local communities. For the Sheffield club, Pat and Gene Salvi created "Chips In Day," where teams of our members put fresh wood chips below the swings and slides at area playgrounds: three at Undermountain Elementary School in Sheffield, two at Muddy Brook Elementary and the Grove Street play area in Great Barrington, one at Housatonic School and one at French Park in Egremont. Later, Kiwanis volunteers also tidied the playgrounds at Monument Valley Middle School in Great Barrington and the New Marlborough Central School. This project, incidentally, coincided with National Playground Safety Week.

**Trailer travels.** The Kiwanis Refreshment Trailer is ready to meet its many seasonal commitments. Chair Debbie Wright noted that some of the Little League games at the Town Park will be covered from the shed kitchen this season. The trailer is

already booked for several horse shows at French Park, and we have a date at Berkshire School's Alumni Day event on May 12. Debbie is busy scheduling work crews.

**Litter.** The Kiwanis Club's seven months of litter patrol began on April 19 with the roadside cleanup of two miles of Route 7 from Kellogg Rd. in Sheffield north to the National Grid station in Great Barrington. These Kiwanis crews will be out the third Thursday of every month from now through October. The project is headed again this year by Steve and JoAnn Shmulsky.

**Upcoming events.** Kiwanis will share in the honoring of Al and Edi Trocchi over Memorial Day weekend—their son, Mark, plans several activities at the Boardman St. home where Kiwanis will provide catering services. On Sunday, May 27, the Mt. Everett High School Library will be re-named the Trocchi Family Library, in honor of their many years working in the school system.

The Annual Kiwanis Golf Tournament at the Egremont Country Club begins at noon on Friday, June 15. We are looking for players and sponsors to make this day a record success. Aidan Gilligan (a new member) at aidangilligan@gmail.com and David Smith, Jr., at searsguys@hotmail.com are co-chairs of the event and will provide any details requested. —Dick Goodwin

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BY APP'T FRIDAYS



## HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

On Fri., May 11, at 7:30pm, the Historical Society will present a slide show and program at Dewey Hall entitled "Eye of Shawenon" about the early days of Egremont, Sheffield, Mount Washington and Alford. Author and local historian Gary Leveille will be the guest speaker.

Leveille's recent book, also entitled *Eye of Shawenon*, is a history of North Egremont, Prospect Lake and the Green River Valley. Shawenon was a Mohican who negotiated the sale of tribal lands in this area in the 1700s, when both New York and Massachusetts Bay Colonies claimed the land that is now Egremont, Alford and Mount Washington. A virtual "no man's land," it was sparsely populated by Native Americans. Unincorporated land west of Sheffield was first sold by Mohicans to the Spoor family in the 1720s, but apparently nothing was official. Various members of the Spoor (Spurr) family were early settlers of Sheffield, Mount Washington and Egremont.

Later, Jehoiakim Shawenon, a Stockbridge Mohican, helped negotiate a land deal in 1756, clearing the way for legal settlement west of Sheffield. The "eye" of Shawenon in the book's title refers to Egremont's Prospect Lake.

Few realize that a major Indian trail meandered through the Upper Parish of Sheffield (now Great Barrington) or that a military road through the area—the Knox Trail—brought critical supplies to thousands of troops in the 18th and early 19th century. Egremont was invaded by British troops from Hillsdale 10 years before the American Revolution. Colonel Knox marched through here with his artillery train in 1776 and changed the course of U.S. history.

Leveille is an avid local historian and researcher. He is a member of the Great Barrington Historical Commission and serves on the board of directors of the Great Barrington Historical Society. He is also the author of *Around Great Barrington*, a history of the town as told through vintage postcards, and the best-selling photo history entitled *Old*

### Mother's Day Wildflowers Guided Walk

Sun., May 13, 10am-12noon.

Join a ranger for a family-friendly stroll along gentle Cobble trails to view wild columbine and other native wildflowers. Learn what you can do to make better homes for native wild plants and butterflies/wild animals in your own backyard and take home a packet of native wildflowers from Project Native. Please pre-register. Members: adult/child \$4, family \$10. Nonmembers: adult/child \$6, family \$15.

### Canoe Trip

Memorial Day, Mon., May 28, 9am-12noon

Join us for a guided canoe trip of one of the prettiest stretches along the Housatonic River. Paddles and life jackets are provided. The route is leisurely and beautiful, past the cows of Corbin's neck, the rocky limestone ledges of the Cobble, fields, the floodplain forests and the mouth of the Konkapot River. Members: adult \$24; child (age 10-16) \$10. Nonmembers: adult \$30; child (age 10-16) \$15. Please pre-register.

### Eco-Volunteers

Thursdays, 9am-12noon.

Help us monitor and care for Cobble trails and plant communities while learning valuable leadership skills. You can reserve a day or time for your community service group to help. Contact Conservation Ranger Rene Wendell for more information. Free.

*The Trustees of Reservations manage Bartholomew's Cobble, a National Natural Landmark, on Weatogue Rd. in Ashley Falls. It's open year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset. The Visitor's Center is open from 9am-4pm Tuesday-Saturday during winter. Regular admission is free for members of The Trustees of Reservations and Sheffield Non-members: \$5 adult, \$1 child. Call 229-8600 or email bcobble@ttor.org.*

Route 7—Along The Berkshire Highway.

**Upcoming events.** The Society has a golf tournament fundraiser on June 8. Our Annual Meeting and Ice Cream Social is on June 15 at 7:30 in Dewey Hall. The summer garden party will take place on July 15 from 3 to 6pm at Netherby Hall in Sheffield.

For more information, call 229-2694 or visit the Society's web site at [www.sheffieldhistory.org](http://www.sheffieldhistory.org). —Barbara Dowling

## AMERICAN LEGION NEWS: STUDENTS GOING TO BOYS/GIRLS STATE

Sheffield American Legion Post 340 is sending eight juniors from Mount Everett High School to Boys and Girls State in June. The programs, sponsored by the Massachusetts American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary, are held at Stone Hill College in Easton, MA. The trips are made possible with the financial assistance of the Sheffield Kiwanis, Salisbury Bank, Our Lady of the Valley Church, the Thursday Morning Club and the Boys/Girls State Foundation.

Boys and Girls State is a week-long event aimed at giving students real experience in how government and democracy work. It's part of the Legion's

continuing efforts to support and strengthen democratic values and citizen involvement. Students are selected based on their achievement and leadership qualities in the classroom, the community and on the playing field.

For a week, the students become "citizens" of "towns" where they are asked to consider various issues and devise solutions. Over the week, they convene party conventions, create platforms and nominate statewide candidates. The week culminates in a candidates' forum, where each party presents its platform and candidates debate the issues before elections are held. A governor, lieutenant

governor and two senators are chosen.

Courses given during the program cover government, law and the economy, along with mini-courses in current topics. Sessions in recent years have included society and the media, the college application process and today's law enforcement.

The program is held on a college campus to give the students a taste of college life. Students stay in dorms and attend meetings in the class rooms. There are organized athletic activities for those who wish to participate, but students can also use the time to relax, socialize and meet peers from around state.



## FIRE LOG

### February

- 20 Structure fire at 616 Sheffield Plain Rd.
- 26 Mutual aid with New Marlborough Fire Dept. for structure fire.
- 28 Automobile accident at Route 7/Kellogg Rd.
- 28 Berkshire School fire alarm: Egremont responded while covering for Sheffield.

### March

- 1 Chimney fire at 1161 Home Rd.
- 8 Mutual aid with Great Barrington Fire Dept. for structure fire.
- 20 Mutual aid with Lakeville, CT, Fire Dept. for brush fire
- 12 Berkshire School fire alarm.
- 12 Berkshire School fire alarm.
- 12 Barn fire at 79 Pike Rd.
- 26 Car fire on Route 7.
- 26 Brush fire on Giberson Rd.
- 27 CO detector alarm at 25 Cross Rd.

### April

- 7 Brush fire at 202 Hillside Lane.
- 7 False alarm at the Market Place.
- 10 Mutual aid with Great Barrington Fire Dept. at 210 Division St.
- 14 Mutual aid with Great Barrington Fire Dept. for structure fire on Rt. 71.



**Cubs cross over.**  
Nicholas LeGeyt and Nikos Casivant from Den 4 of Sheffield's Cub Scout Pack 28, crossed over to Boy Scout Troop 1028 in February. The Den wishes them the best. On to Eagle!

Boys in sixth grade to 18 years who would like to join the Boy Scouts: we meet at the American Legion Hall on Rt. 7 Wednesday evenings at 7pm.

—Olympia Casivant

## REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

### February

- 1 Gregg S. Massini to Christopher A. & Diana W. Williams, property at Clayton Rd., \$300,000.
- 29 Barry Emberlin to Greg-Cal Real Estate Trust, property at 599 S. Main St., Transfer.

### March

- 16 Clifford F. Moger & Barry A. Minske to John H. & Katherine E. Stookey, Trustees of The Katherine E. Stookey & John H. Stookey Revocable Trusts, property at 946 Silver Street, \$525,000.
- 27 Oleksandr V. & Tetyana I. Chemysh to Victor J. Zucco, property at 217 Bunce Rd., \$297,000.

### April

- 6 Thomas P. & Elizabeth B.G. Marino to Stephen Leining, Trustee of Middle Road Nominee Trust, property at 1885 & 1889 North Main St., \$270,000.



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# Calendar Page

## May

- 11 History Society lecture (p. 25)
- 13 MOTHER'S DAY
- 14 TOWN ELECTION
- 18 Bulky waste collection (also May 19 and 20; p. 16)
- 19 Shred-It Day (p. 19)
- 19 Paint and oil recycling (p. 21)
- 19 Ham dinner (p. 14)
- 22 Summer Solstice Celebration (p. 5)
- 26 Poetry read-around (p. 12)
- 26 Contra dance (p. 5)
- 28 MEMORIAL DAY (observed)
- 27 Early American song concert (p. 9)

## June

- 2 Dewey Hall Folk concert (p. 5)
- 8 Historical Society golf fundraiser (p. 25)
- 16 Forestry talk (p. 9)
- 17 FATHER'S DAY
- 14 Choral Festival season opens (p. 5)
- 15 Historical Society ice cream social (p. 25)
- 15 **Deadline for the JULY/AUGUST Sheffield Times**
- 20 FIRST DAY OF SUMMER
- 23 Contra dance (p. 5)
- 23 Poetry read-around (p. 12)
- 30 History talk (p. 9)
- 30 Land Trust annual meeting (p. 23)

## July

- 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY
- 15 Historical Society garden party (p. 25)

See also the listings for Music & More (p. 10), Senior Center (p. 15),  
Kiwanis (p. 24) and Bartholomew's Cobble (p. 25)

Buy local, read local!  
Please contribute!

## ONGOING CALENDAR ITEMS

Meetings or events that occur less than weekly are noted with a week number – i.e. "1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>" indicates meetings are on the first and third times that day occurs in the month. \* indicates appointment needed.

Meals on Wheels, Mon-Fri, except holidays

### Mondays:

- Building Inspector, Town Hall, 7am-1pm
- Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 7pm, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Conservation Commission, Town Hall, 7pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>
- Board of Health, Town Hall, 7pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Food Assistance Program, Old Parish Church, 9-10:30am
- \* Foot care clinic, Senior Center, 1<sup>st</sup>

### Tuesdays:

- Building Inspector, 7am-1pm
- Ashley Falls Historic District Commission, Town Hall, 6:30pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Senior Center physical fitness, 9am
- Children's Story Hour, Library, 10am
- Senior Center "Lawn Chair Movie," 11:30am
- Kiwanis Club, The Bridge Restaurant, 6:30pm

### Wednesdays:

- Senior Center Knitting Group, 3pm, 1<sup>st</sup>
- Planning Board, Town Hall, 7pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> (4<sup>th</sup> only for summer)

### Thursdays:

- Building Inspector, Thurs. 11am-6 pm
- Senior Center physical fitness, 9am
- Third Thursday Luncheon, Senior Center, noon
- \* Hearing Testing available, Senior Center, 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Breaking Bread Kitchen, American Legion Hall, 5pm

### Fridays

- Building Inspector, 11am-4pm
- Council on Aging, 9:30am, as needed
- Commission on Disabilities, Library, 3:30pm 3<sup>rd</sup>

### Saturdays:

- Dewey Hall Folk Music Series, 8pm, 1<sup>st</sup>
- Senior Center Knitting Group, 11am, 3<sup>rd</sup>

### Sundays:

- Men's Group, Old Parish, 7:45am, 2<sup>nd</sup>

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